



## Media Release

### **Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers and Singapore Management University to collaborate in course development, teaching and research**

*SMU maritime economics students exempted from compulsory paper in  
ICS' Professional Qualifying Examination*

*Singapore, 26 August 2014 (Tuesday)* – Singapore Management University (SMU) and the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a framework of partnership that will facilitate cooperation, including the co-development of courses, and collaboration in teaching and research.

The MOU signing ceremony held today at SMU was represented by signatories: Captain Subhangshu Dutt, Chairman, ICS Singapore Committee; and Associate Professor Annie Koh, SMU's Vice President, Business Development and External Relations, and Academic Director of SMU International Trading Institute (ITI@SMU).

ICS is the only internationally-recognised professional body in the maritime arena and it represents shipbrokers, ship managers and agents around the world. Under the MOU, ICS accords the *Shipping Business* course under SMU's Maritime Economics Concentration (MEC) an exemption from the *ICS Introduction to Shipping* course, which is a compulsory paper in ICS' Professional Qualifying Examinations, or PQE. This examination forms the pinnacle of the ICS qualification and is essential to becoming a member of ICS. With 4,000 individuals and 120 company members worldwide, the ICS membership is internationally recognised as a mark of professionalism in the shipping industry.

Additionally, SMU and ICS have co-developed and will introduce a new course to SMU's MEC syllabus entitled *Dry Bulk Freight Markets* in the new Academic Year starting August 2014. The course will be taught by Mr Ron Wilson, Fellow of the Institute, an official Chartered Shipbroker, and an Education Officer with ICS.

"Our relationship with SMU began eight years ago when we started teaching the *Shipping Business* course to the University's undergraduates. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience, and we get a great sense of satisfaction to learn that the course is today a very popular module among students of ITI@SMU. We are excited to bring this relationship to the next level," said Captain Subhangshu Dutt.

"It is our privilege to partner with the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers, an internationally-recognised professional body which is well-regarded in the international maritime industry. The exemption accorded to SMU students by ICS enables our students in the International Trading Concentration (ITC) and Maritime Economics Concentration (MEC) programmes to advance one step closer towards becoming a member of a global network of

shipping professionals. This accelerated pathway to ICS membership certainly supports SMU students' entry into the thriving maritime industry ecosystem as Singapore develops into an International Maritime Centre," said Associate Professor Annie Koh.

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### **About Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS)**

The Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (ICS) is the only internationally recognised professional body in the maritime arena and it represents shipbrokers, ship managers and agents throughout the world. With 25 branches in key shipping areas, 4000 individuals and 120 company members, the Institute's membership represents a commitment to maintaining the highest professional standards across the shipping industry.

### **About Singapore Management University**

A premier university in Asia, the Singapore Management University (SMU) is internationally recognised for its world-class research and distinguished teaching. Established in 2000, SMU's mission is to generate leading-edge research with global impact and produce broad-based, creative and entrepreneurial leaders for the knowledge-based economy. It is known for its interactive and technologically enabled pedagogy of seminar-style teaching in small class sizes.

Home to over 8,300 undergraduate and postgraduate students, SMU comprises six schools: School of Accountancy, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Economics, School of Information Systems, School of Law and School of Social Sciences, offering a wide range of bachelors', masters' and PhD degree programmes in various disciplines.

With an emphasis on generating rigorous, high-impact, multi-disciplinary research that addresses Asian issues of global relevance, SMU faculty members collaborate with leading international researchers and universities from USA, Europe, China and India as well as with partners in the business community and public sector through its research institutes and centres. SMU's city campus is a state-of-the art facility located in the heart of downtown Singapore, fostering strategic linkages with the business and wider community. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

### **About the International Trading Institute (ITI@SMU)**

The ITI@SMU is the first trading institute in the world to be set up within a university. ITI@SMU boasts a specialist focus on international trading and is supported by a unique public-private partnership. ITI@SMU is Singapore's premier industry platform for thought leadership and talent development in the arena of international trading.

### **About the Maritime Economics Concentration (MEC)**

Launched in August 2013, the MEC is a maritime-focused cluster of courses within the Economics major designed to give SMU students a distinctive preparation for maritime-related roles in industry. Building on the foundations established in the major, the MEC develops essential knowledge and contextualised skills relevant for the analysis of economic issues in the maritime sector.

An important distinguishing feature of the MEC is that academic courses are complemented in a variety of ways that make the Concentration a comprehensive preparation for careers in the maritime sector. MEC students have access to industry scholarships and experiential learning opportunities including industry study missions, site visits, local and overseas internships, and non-credit courses presented by industry professionals. There are currently 55 students in the MEC programme.

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